The Scopes “Monkey” Trial

In the 1920’s, the Tennessee Legislature passed the Butler Law. This law made it illegal to teach evolution of any other species besides humans to students. Evolution is the scientific theory that states that humans and all other living things come from different, earlier species. The Butler Law was only held a 100 to 500 dollar fine for violating it and there was almost no way that any violators could be arrested. Also, this law was only enforced in tax-paying elementary schools.

John Scopes was a football and mathematics teacher at the public school in the town of Dayton. He only substituted Dayton’s science class one day, and never taught his students evolution. Scopes was found not guilty of his accused crimes, but he decided to test the “constitutionality” of the Butler Act. He ended up being arrested by his friend, Sue Hicks, for violating this law. John Scopes was never jailed for one minute; he only violated a misdemeanor. John Scopes was given the best defensive attorney team ever for a misdemeanor. This trial would not have happened if the Fundamentalists would n4ever had evolved.

Click [here](http://www.themonkeytrial.com/ITW%20Video%20Clips/arrest%20of%20John%20Scopes.wmv) to open a short video on the Scopes Trial

Key terms:

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<http://www.themonkeytrial.com/>

<http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/thisday/johnscopes.jpg>

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